

	United States Department of Agriculture  Forest Service	<b>News Release</b>	<b>KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST</b>  1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA 96097 (530) 841-6131 <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/klamath">www.fs.usda.gov/klamath</a>	
Date: April 8, 2011	<b>For Immediate Release</b>		Contact: Tom Lavagnino (530) 841-4485 <a href="mailto:tlavagnino@fs.fed.us">tlavagnino@fs.fed.us</a>	

## **April 1<sup>st</sup> Snow Survey Results for the Scott River Watershed**

**Yreka, CA** – Employees of the Salmon/Scott River Ranger District of the Klamath National Forest have completed the April 1<sup>st</sup> snow surveys. The storms which passed through the area during March have added to the local snowpack since the previous month. According to the current measurements, the snowpack depth is now at 159% of normal.

Snow depth and water content are measured by obtaining a core sample of snow with a specially designed and calibrated aluminum tube. The snow depth is recorded and the water equivalent of that snow sample is calculated by weighing the core of snow in the tubes. The information is forwarded to the State of California, where the data is compiled with other snow reports and becomes part of the California Cooperative Snow Survey program, managed by the California Department of Water Resources. The information is used to help the State forecast the amount of water available for agricultural uses, power generation, and stream flow releases later in the year.

During the winter and spring months (February-May), District employees travel to pre-determined measuring sites to collect information about snow accumulation in the mountains of the Klamath National Forest above the south and west portions of Scott Valley. Some sites are located a few dozen yards off forest roads, while others require hours of travel by snow shoes and/or snowmobile.

April 1<sup>st</sup> is an significant date for surveying snow because it is historically when the snowpack is at its maximum and has the greatest importance when the State forecasts the annual water availability. Therefore, to gain additional data for April, three extra locations are added to the surveys for this month to supplement the usual five Scott River watershed snow measurement sites. Of these, two – Etna Mountain and Box Camp - are also in the Scott River drainage, and the third – Wolford Cabin – is within the Trinity River basin. These additional sites are generally considered too remote or difficult to access to visit on a monthly basis.

Snow survey crew members this month included: Carol Ballow, Danika Carlson, Mary Gausen, Nic Hoisington, Maija Meneks, Bill Robinson, Sue Tebbe, and Andy Tompkins.

For more information, go to the California Department of Water Resources Website: <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/snow> or contact Maija Meneks on the Salmon/Scott River District at (530) 468-1272.

The following table is the April 1, 2011 snow course data from the Scott River Drainage.

Snow Course  Name	Snow Depth			Equivalent Water Content		
	4/1/2011	Historic Average for April	Percent Average for April 1st	4/1/2011	Historic Average for April	Percent Average for April 1st
Middle Boulder #1  6600' elevation	118.5”	73.9”	160%	29.3	32.1”	91%
	(Established 1946)					
Middle Boulder #3  6200' elevation	114.2”	66.1”	173%	39.6”	28.4”	140%
	(Established 1948)					
Dynamite Meadow  5700' elevation	85.7”	47.1”	182%	28.8”	18.9”	152%
	(Established 1955)					
Swampy John  5500' elevation	109.6”	83.5”	131%	39.0”	33.0”	118%
	(Established 1951)					
Scott Mountain  5900' elevation	99.0"	53.3”	186%	38.0”	22.7”	167%
	(Established 1986)					
Additional Stations Completed For April						
Etna Mountain  5900' elevation	110.5”	72.5”	152%	39.1”	28.4”	137%
	(Established 1951)					
Wolford Cabin  6150' elevation	116.4”	86.6”	134%	45.8”	36.2”	126%
	(Established 1949)					
Box Camp  6440' elevation	142.4”	91.3”	156%	57.7”	37.1”	155%
	(Established 1979)					
Total average:	159%			136%		



Top Photo– Maija Meneks carrying gear along the survey course at Etna Mountain.

Bottom Photo– Nic Hoisington measuring snow depth at Wolford Cabin.